



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

JAMES S. REINHARD, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Telephone (804) 786-3921
Voice/TDD (804) 371-8977
www.dmhmrzas.state.va.us

MEDIA ADVISORY INFORMATIONAL ONLY

TO: Reporters/News Editors Tri-Cities Area

FROM: Martha Mead
(804) 786-9048
Stacey Atwell
(804) 786-1332
mmead@dmhmrsas.state.va.us
satwell@dmhmrsas.state.va.us

April 23, 2004

DINWIDDIE CAMPUS OF DMHMRSAS TO HOST LOCAL SEARCH AND RESCUE CANINE TRAINING EXERCISE

Saturday, May 1, 2004, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, a canine search and rescue training exercise will be held on the campus of Central State Hospital, Southside Virginia Training Center, Virginia Center for Behavior Rehabilitation, and Hiram W. Davis Medical Center. The purpose of the exercise is training for search and rescue dogs and their handlers, as well as the campus police, local law enforcement, firefighters and emergency services personnel. This is a coordinated exercise that has been planned by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and Southside Virginia Training Center Department of Public Safety. The exercise will involve the Dinwiddie Sheriff's Department, the Dinwiddie Public Safety Office, Namozine Volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, in coordination with DMHMRSAS campus personnel.

The dogs and their handlers are part of a volunteer organization associated with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Several scenarios will be set up in various places on the campus and its perimeter. The exercises will allow law enforcement and emergency services personnel to participate in an intense ground search and to understand and test the roles of the search and rescue dogs.

####